



# Pen & Palette

The Newsletter of the Society of Washington Artists

## SWA on Sabbatical until Sept. 15, 2020

*No dues will be collected until January 2021*

### Board Meeting Minutes

*Sue Tellock Recording Secretary:*

Hey there SWA members! While you have been creating one masterpiece after another in your creative space, your Board has been working diligently on SWA ideas for you.

At our April 16, 2020 Zoom meeting, chaired by First Vice President, Katey Sandy, we made some decisions that you will want to know about.

One is that for members in good standing, those whose dues are current at this time, those dues will remain in effect until December 31, 2020. New dues are to be paid in January 2021.

Also, SWA is currently in a sabbatical status until September 15, 2020 due to the restrictions created by the Corona virus, which means that there will be no meetings or shows planned for the next few months. All of us are anxious to get together again but we understand that now is not the time.

A survey from SWA will be sent to you soon. Your survey answers will help the Board know what or if changes should be made to SWA to make it more interesting and important for you. Please answer and return promptly so that we can move forward.

An interim leadership team is being formed consisting of Board members and a few people from our membership. This group will review the surveys and discuss possible new ideas for SWA. If you would like to be considered for this team, please contact Katey Sandy.

The Board also acknowledged the resignation of SWA President Janice Tracy who has recently moved to Sisters, Oregon.

### PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN YOUR SURVEY

In this issue, you will see several mentions of **THE SURVEY**

The survey will be arriving in your email boxes on May 1st via Mailchimp. It is very important that you fill it out online **and submit by May 15th**. In this time when we cannot meet in person and have so many vacant board and committee positions, we need to be creative about planning for the future, and

***your input is very important!***

### *Farewell Janice!* *....and Thank you!*

As many of you already know, our President, Janice Tracey has resigned due to her move to Sisters, OR. In the 4 years she was President of SWA, she always gave it her all with her boundless energy and unstoppable wit and wisdom. The last year has been very difficult for her personally, but she has been an inspiration to us all with her poise under pressure. She will be missed terribly, and filling her shoes will be very difficult. Following is an article that she prepared for us.



The first SWA meeting I attended was a "paint-in." This was the fall of 2015. Then-president Jennifer deWeber was demonstrating the skills she was learning in sculpture class. Program Director Marianne Stokes was demonstrating landscapes on a large canvas. There was a drawing circle. I think I brought in a tote bag that I was painting on. Jean Liston drew me as I worked. Everyone was so nice.

I sat my first show with Barb Yothers. She was still recovering from a rather gnarly sounding traffic accident, but she was happy to be back at the show, and happy to tell me a little about the organization I had stumbled into.

That fall show, a bit of beginners luck got me an Honorable Mention for my painting, "Monkey Face," an impression of a rock outcropping at Smith Rock State Park, which lies 19 miles from where I am writing this here in Central Oregon. That certainly helped my opinion of the group. Mary Jane Larson won that fall with her watercolor "Paws and Consider."

I was newly "retired" from working as a paralegal. The job was high stress and low vacation, and Drew had convinced me to quit and take more vacation with him and just paint for a "living." I remember the look of dismay on our retirement advisor's

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## Spring Show Went Virtual!

Unfortunately, the spring show was cancelled, by the city of Vancouver, who owns the Water Resources building. We received a full refund, and refunded the artists' registration fees. While it was expected, it was still a huge disappointment! However, in the spirit of "The show must go on!" It DID! The show is online! The work of 80+ artists who had already registered are there. You can view it on our website!

[www.swavancouver.com](http://www.swavancouver.com)

*There is a blue button on the homepage that will take you there!*

face when I told him my plans, and that I would feel lucky if sales were enough to keep my canvas and paints restocked.

My fresh retirement put me in a mood to say "yes" to everything, which is how I ended up as SWA President by April of 2016. Wanda Brewster, Jean Toepfer, and Katey Sandy made it sound so easy. I would practically be a figurehead! Just say a few words at the meetings, Katey and Jean would run the art shows, Marianne Stokes was booking the artist demonstrators and artists of the month, Susan Koenig was editing the newsletter, Arletta Riedler was keeping the website up to date and making sure show registrations ran smoothly.

And it was mostly easy. That first spring show as president was a bit of a nail-biter for me. I didn't know what I was doing, but I feel like that most of the time now as well. In those days, both spring and fall shows were held at the H. H. Hall Building in Hazel Dell. We used the hallways as our gallery.

Since 2016, much has changed at SWA. Spring Shows, now held at the beautiful community room of the Water Resources Education Center, have become one

of the premier spring art events in Clark County. The move to the Water Resources Center and the growth of the SWA Spring Art Show has been the work of many dedicated volunteers, but it was led by our intrepid and indomitable Katey Sandy.

Yet despite the prestige of our art shows, the membership, monthly meeting attendance, and especially volunteer base have all declined. Some members are getting on in years. Some members have taken jobs that require them to work on weekdays. Some members are lucky enough to travel much of the year. And maybe because of those weekday meetings, or maybe because SWA just doesn't appeal to a younger audience, we have not been able to attract new members at the speed that we are losing older ones. And now, just as we are battling those issues, along comes this new viral monster to take out all our spring show plans and bring all meetings to a halt.

The current SWA leadership committee - Sue Tellock, Linda Whittingham, Rae Del Brashier, Wanda Brewster, and Earlene Holmstrom, all led by acting president Katey Sandy - are hard at work gathering

information so that they can steer SWA in whatever new direction it must take to evolve in these new times and with this devastating lack of new leadership volunteers. I am confident they will listen to you, and then make the best decisions for the good of all members. So please help them by completing the coming survey. We will be sending you the survey via Mailchimp around May 1. We would like you to complete it and submit it online by May 15. It's easy and won't take more than a few minutes.

I will miss being involved in the evolution of this organization and I will miss every one of you. I didn't expect to be swept up in the whirlwind of death and coronavirus that landed me in Sisters, Oregon a full two and a half months before I had planned. (I could regale you with that story, but maybe you can catch it later on my blog.) Nevertheless, here I am in Sisters, and I hope you are safe and able to create beauty wherever you are during this plague.

Thank you for being kind to me -  
Janice Tracy, Former President



During this time we are on Sabbatical and staying at home, we hope you will stay in touch with fellow members by phone, email or teleconferencing. A great way to stay in touch is to visit us on facebook [www.facebook.com/swavancouver](http://www.facebook.com/swavancouver)

Our historian, Jeanine Liston, will be posting some old photos and info about past activities on our facebook page. Be on the lookout for those posts. Perhaps some of our longtime members can share some other wonderful memories of past shows and activities.

The following Officers And Committee Chairs are required by our By-laws. If you are interested in fulfilling one of these roles please contact First Vice President, Katey Sandy.

President - **VACANCY**  
First Vice President - **VACANCY**  
Vice President - Rae Del Brasher  
Recording Secretary - Sue Tellock  
Treasurer - Linda Whittingham  
Program Coordinator - **VACANCY**  
Webmaster - **VACANCY**  
Publicity - **VACANCY**  
Workshops - **VACANCY**  
Newsletter Editor - Elaine Pawski  
Venue Coordinator - Wanda Brewster & Earlene Holmstrom  
Meeting Hospitality - Diana Thewlis  
Membership Directory - Wanda Brewster  
Historian - Jeanine Liston  
Nomination Committee- **VACANCY**

We can still “travel” and see some great art exhibits! Here are a few links to art shows just across the river and around the world! (Links may or may not work on your computer. Copy and paste if necessary.)

The Oregon Society of Artists, has been putting their shows in a virtual gallery.

<https://www.osartists.org/gallery/current-upcoming-exhibits>

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY -

<https://www.guggenheim.org/plan-your-visit/guggenheim-from-home>

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA : <https://www.sfmoma.org/museumfromhome/>

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia PA : [tinyurl.com/y87qqwrv](https://tinyurl.com/y87qqwrv)

Metropolitan Museum, New York, NY [www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/met-360-project](https://www.metmuseum.org/art/online-features/met-360-project)

The Louve, Paris France <https://www.youvisit.com/tour/louvremuseum>

Rijks, Amsterdam, Netherlands: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/rijksmuseum>

## New Look for the Newsletter

*Elaine Pawski, Interim Newsletter Editor*

The reason for the new look, is that the newsletter was something that Janice had been doing and I volunteered to take care of- At least for now, but I could use an assistant! Gathering info taking pictures at meetings and proofreading is a big job that most anyone can do! If you are interested in learning more about working with me on the newsletter, please call or email me. 360-713-8422 or [epawski@comcast.net](mailto:epawski@comcast.net)

During this time of sabbatical, we may or may not have another newsletter until September but if you have news, please email me.

*Some things to be grateful for during the Corona virus  
While our normal lives have changed due to restrictions as  
a result of the Corona virus, it is important to think of things  
to be grateful for during this time.*

- ♥ *A computer that is working*
- ♥ *Amazon deliveries*
- ♥ *Neighbors who shout messages and wave  
as they walk by*
- ♥ *New recipes that prove to be keepers*
- ♥ *Sunny days*

*- Sue Tellock*